

## Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15

RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 USIA-15

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R 111010Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6967

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 16223

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF VS

SUBJ: DR DAN'S MEETING OF SEPT 4, 73

FOLG TEL SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO DANANG FM CANTHO 11 SEP 73

REPEATED FYINFO

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0710

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF VS

SUBJ: DR DAN'S MEETING OF SEPT 4, 73

1. DR. PHAN QUANG DAN, MINISTER OF STATE AND DIRECTOR OF THE  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR LAND DEVELOPMENT AND HAMLET BUILDING, WHO  
IS IN CHARGE OF RELOCATION OF REFUGEES AND LAND RECLAMATION HELD A  
MEETING AT MR 4 HEADQUARTERS ON SEPTEMBER 4, 1973. MAJOR GENERAL  
NGHI ATTENDED THE FULL SESSION AS DID MR 4 PROVINCE CHIEFS AND REP-  
RESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES FROM SAIGON (ECONOMY,  
AGRICULTURE, VIETNAM ENGINEERING COMPANY, VIETNAMESE DREDGING COM-  
PANY, ETC.). THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM  
OF RELOCATING REFUGEES FROM I CORPS TO THE DELTA, AND TO INITIATE  
PLANNING FOR AREAS WHERE THEY CAN RESETTLE, PRIMARILY ON LAND THAT  
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WAS ONCE UNDER CULTIVATION BUT HAS BEEN ABANDONED FOR A NUMBER OF

YEARS. SUCH ABANDONED FORMERLY CULTIVATED LAND EXISTS IN ALL PROVINCES OF MR 4 EXCEPT AN GIANG.

2. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 279,000 HECTARES OF SUCH FORMERLY CULTIVATED BUT NOW ABANDONED FARMLAND IN MR 4. HOWEVER, APPROXIMATELY 55,000 HECTARES ARE LOCATED IN INSECURE AREAS IN AND AROUND THE U MINH FOREST AND IN EASTERN DAM DOI DISTRICT WHICH CANNOT BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS PURPOSE AT THE PRESENT TIME. THE REMAINING 224,000 HECTARES CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE BUT WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL SECURITY AND A VARYING AMOUNT OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT FOR LAND CLEARING, DREDGING CANALS, RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, AND SUPPORT OF SUCH RELOCATEES UNTIL THEY CAN BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT. MR 4 HAD PLANNED TO DISTRIBUTE MUCH OF THIS LAND TO SOLDIERS, CIVIL SERVANTS AND OTHER LOCAL PEOPLE BUT THERE ARE NO FUNDS PROGRAMMED TO SUPPORT A MAJOR PROGRAM FOR THEIR BENEFIT. ON THE OTHER HAND, DR. DAN HAS SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THE RELOCATION OF REFUGEES AND RECLAMATION OF FARMLAND FOR THEIR USE. HE INDICATED THAT HE HAS 12 BILLION PIASTERS FOR THIS PURPOSE AVAILABLE IN 1973 AND 25 BILLION PIASTERS IN 1974.

3. DURING THE MORNING SESSION, PROVINCE CHIEFS PRESENTED A BRIEFING OUTLINING THE AREAS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THEIR PROVINCES, THE SCOPE OF WORK REQUIRED FOR RECLAMATION, AND THEIR CURRENT PLANS FOR RE-OCCUPYING THE AREAS USING SOLDIERS, CIVIL SERVANTS, AND OTHER LOCAL PEOPLE.

4. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE AFTERNOON SESSION, MGEN NGHI PROPOSED A SECOND REVIEW DURING WHICH TENTATIVE PRIORITIES WOULD BE ASSIGNED AND PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES GIVEN TO DR. DAN AS TO THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES THAT COULD BE TAKEN CARE OF IN EACH OF THE AREAS. GENERAL NGHI DIVIDED THE AREAS UNDER CONSIDERATION INTO THREE CATEGORIES OR PRIORITIES, BY PROVINCE. CATEGORY I PROVINCES INCLUDED DINH TUONG, VINH LONG, VINH BINH, SA DEC, PHONG DINH, AND AN AREA STRETCHING FROM THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS AREA ALONG THE BORDER IN CHAU DOC TO HA TIEN IN KIEN GIANG. CATEGORY II PROVINCES INCLUDED KIEN TUONG, KIEN PHONG, KIEN HOA, GO CONG, BA XUYEN, AND ANOTHER LARGE AREA IN KIEN GIANG STRETCHING FROM THE THREE SISTERS TO THE AN GIANG BORDER. ONE OF THE AREAS IN BAC LIEU ALONG THE COAST WAS ALSO INCLUDED AS A CATEGORY II

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AREA. CATEGORY III INCLUDES AREAS IN AN XUYEN, CHUONG THIEN, NORTHERN BAC LIEU AND SOUTHERN KIEN GIANG. THESE REPRESENT AREAS WHICH ARE MORE DIFFICULT TO BE OCCUPIED BECAUSE OF SECURITY. DR. DAN ALSO INCLUDED PHU QUOC ISLAND AS A HIGH PRIORITY AREA FOR RELOCATION OF APPROXIMATELY 20,000 PEOPLE.

5. HAVING MADE THIS GENERAL LIST OF PRIORITIES, THE PROVINCE CHIEFS AGAIN DISCUSSED THE AREAS UNDER CONSIDERATION AND THE DESIGNATED

PRIORITIES FOR AREAS TO BE REOCCUPIED WITHIN EACH PROVINCE. THEY ALSO GAVE TENTATIVE NUMBERS OF RELOCATEES THAT THEY THOUGH MIGHT BE HANDLED IN EACH AREA. HAVING COME TO THESE TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS, IT WAS DECIDED THAT DR. DAN WOULD LEAVE A TEAM OF EXPERTS AND TECHNICIANS

FROM HIS OFFICE AND OTHER MINISTRIES IN SAIGON FOR A PERIOD OF TWO WEEKS. THIS TEAM IS TO VISIT EACH OF THE PROVINCES AND THE AREAS WITHIN EACH PROVINCE WHICH ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION. THEY ARE TO ASSEMBLE DETAILED DATA CONCERNING EACH AREA AND THE RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS IN EACH CASE. WHEN THIS HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, ANOTHER PLANNING MEETING WILL BE HELD IN MR 4 TO REVIEW THE INFORMATION GATERED IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS AND TO AGREE UPON ADDITIONAL FEATURES OF THE PLAN. FOLLOWING THIS MEETING, DR. DAN'S STAFF WILL REQUIRE ABOUT ONE WEEK TO PUT THE PLAN IN FINAL FORM FOR PRESENTATION TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. PRESUMABLY, THE PLAN COULD BE APPROVED IN EARLY OCTOBER 1973, AND CERTAIN FEATURES OF IT COULD BE IMPLEMENTED SHORTLY THEREAFTER.  
LEHMANN

UNQUOTE.  
APPLING

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## Message Attributes

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